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EDITORIAL

Another year has almost passed into eternity. In the last days of this year we are to reflect upon the past months and see if we have progressed in our spiritual life or been backsliding. We are now closer to the end than ever before, and soon it will be too late to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming.

We are happy to see that many of the articles printed in the Messenger have been very timely and calling everyone to examine themselves and to progress in the work of sanctification. We have had several favourable comments recently by the readers of the Messenger about the messages in it.

We have sent this monthly magazine to 22 different countries. The number of copies printed have doubled since the beginning of this year. I.M.S. Publishers have sent literature, canvassing books, magazines, and flyers to poorer countries free of charge to help their work. This has caused the publishing house to be in debt. Any donations would be greatly appreciated so that this important work will not be hindered for the lack of means. All the work at the publishing house is done by volunteer workers, therefore no wages have been paid to anyone.

We would also like to ask brothers and sisters in different countries to contribute articles, church reports, and photographs for the Messenger and if you have any proposals and recommendations for the paper, please let us know about it.

The new Principles of Faith book is available from the I.M.S. Publishers. For a long time we have waited for it and finally the delegates of the General Conference approved it and it has now been printed.

We wish God's rich blessings to all the readers of the Messenger and hope that this magazine will be a spiritual help to each one in the year to come also. AMEN.

The Editors

SANCTIFICATION

Part 12

Perfection Through Sanctification

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1.

The promises that Paul refers to are found in the two previous verses. "I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

The work of sanctification cleanses us from all filthiness of the flesh, which refers to the sins done in the body. The filthiness of the spirit refers to our mind, our thinking, pride, and ambition. Then our holiness will be perfected. We will be "perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect". Matt. 5:48.

This all can take place in the fear of God. A holy reverence is essential to the perfection of holiness. We are to be constantly conscious of the presence of God. The standard of holiness which is required of us is high. And, because it is high, many professed Christians will be lost when they fail to reach it.

Paul presents to us the way how this perfection can be reached. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we are come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:11-13.

The teaching of the apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers will bring about the perfection in the saints. Not only perfection by human standards but "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ".

This work of sanctification will never stop. Even that we do not commit sins anymore, our growth in grace will continue. "Jesus considered as a man, was perfect, yet He grew in grace. Luke 2:52. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.' Even the most perfect Christian may increase continually in the knowledge and love of God." ML 249.

"How can we reach perfection specified by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ--our Great Teacher? Can we meet His requirements and attain to so lofty standard? We can, else Christ would not have enjoined us to do so. He is our righteousness. In His humanity He has gone before us and wrought out for us perfection of character. We are to have the faith in Him that works by love and purifies the soul. Perfection of character is based upon that which Christ is to us. If we have constant dependence on the merits of our Saviour, and walk in His footsteps, we shall be like Him, pure and undefiled." Know Him, 130.

According to the testimony, perfection of character is possible to every person who hungers and thirsts after it. It is a great deception of Satan that sin cannot be overcome. Who believes so and teaches it to others is an agent of Satan to deceive people out of salvation.

"Those who put their trust in Christ are not to be enslaved by any hereditary or cultivated habit or tendency. Instead of being held in bondage to the lower nature, they are to rule every appetite and passion. God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart." MH, 175-6.

"So perfect is the character represented which men must have in order to be Christ's disciples that the infidel has said that it is not possible for any human being to attain unto it. But no less a standard must be represented by all who claim to be children of God." IMP, 201.

"Those who serve God should aim at perfection. Wrong habits must be overcome. Right habits must be formed. Under the discipline of the greatest Teacher the world has ever known, Christians must move onward and upward toward perfection. This is God's command, and no one should say, I cannot do it. He should say instead, God requires me to be perfect, and He will give me strength to overcome all that stands in the way of perfection." ST, July 17, 1901.

The work of sanctification means constant progress into holiness. Never are we to stop in this progress. If we do, then we start backsliding and losing the ground we gained with much effort. "Are we seeking for His fulness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us--the perfection of His character? When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, 'It is finished'." RH, June 10, 1902.

"Christ imputes His perfection and righteousness to the believing sinner when he does not continue in sin, but turns from transgression to obedience of the commandments." RH, May 23, 1899. According to this statement, the first thing to do is stop doing sin and then sanctification can begin and the Lord has promised to help us to reach His perfection.

Our time is running out. The hour of judgment is upon us. The seal of God will not be placed upon us if we continue in sin. One wrong thought, one sinful desire gratified will bring eternal condemnation to us, and all will be lost. Christ's perfection must become our perfection. Christ's character must become our character. Christ's sinlessness must become our sinlessness. For one sin Adam was cast out of Paradise and for one sin we cannot enter.

How many foolish virgins are in our church who have entered into this waiting time unprepared. Almost perfect means completely lost. May the Lord help each one of us to reach the spiritual perfection by the sanctification process.

AMEN.



A new Principles of Faith book
is now available from
IMS PUBLISHING

PRINCIPLES OF
FAITH

of the
International Missionary Society
of the Seventh-day Adventist
Reform Movement

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105*

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" 1 Peter 3:15

I have seen it happen on occasion that a visitor to church asks a member a religious question and, instead of attempting to give an answer, the member simply side steps the question and responds with, "Let me go and get the minister or church leader and they can answer your questions." Why could the church member not answer the question? Either they didn't know the answer or they felt incompetent, thinking that the minister could probably give a better answer than they could.

Also, during my years in the church I have seen people come to the church leader or worker with a piece of paper with a phone number of a person they have met, whether a friend, associate, workmate or relative. This person on the paper has requested Bible Studies and therefore this church member felt that it was appropriate for the missionary or church leader to give the Bible studies instead of they themselves. Why?? Either they did not know the doctrines of the church very well, or they felt that the missionary/church leader could do a better job than they could. Do they not know *how* to give Bible Studies or do they simply not know the Bible Studies themselves?

If God had wanted the missionary to give the Bible Studies He would have had their paths cross at some point but often that was not God's intent. It was God's will that this church member give the Bible Studies and He caused their paths to cross for this reason. If the contact is given to the missionary the person would still hear the truth and the missionary would be blessed in the process, but the church member would lose out by not going according to God's will. God had something to teach the church member by deciding that they should give Bible Studies. Could not God give the church member the ability to give Bible Studies just as well as He could give the missionary the ability? Does God want the missionary/church leader to do it all?

"God will require personal service at the hands of every one to whom He entrusts His truth. Not one is excused. Some may feel that if they give of their substance they are excused from personal efforts. But God forbid that they should deceive themselves in this. Gifts of means do not meet the requirement of God, for the duty is but half done. He will accept nothing short of yourselves. You must work to save souls. All will not be called to go to foreign missions, but you may be missionaries at home, in your own families and in your neighbourhoods." *Signs of the Times, Sept. 4, 1879.*

"When men of business, farmers, mechanics, merchants, lawyers, etc., become members of the church, they become servants of Christ; and although their talents may be entirely different, their responsibility to advance the cause of God by personal effort, and with their means, is no less than that which rests upon the minister. The woe which will fall upon the minister if he preach not the gospel, will just as surely fall upon the businessman, if he, with his different talents, will not be a co-worker with Christ in accomplishing the same results. When this is brought home to the individual, some will say, "This is an hard saying;" nevertheless it is true, although continually contradicted by the practice of men who profess to be followers of Christ." *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 468*

What will happen when the missionary who is counted on to give the Bible Studies and answer the questions of the visitors is no longer available? How will these members explain their faith? Of course there was nothing wrong with their faith because they were convinced with the Bible, but they should be able to tell all their friends why they believe so, and where the truths are in the Bible.

When the time of trouble comes and these church members mentioned above are called before the courts to answer for their faith, they will say, "I don't know why I believe this way, call Brother So and So, and he will explain it to you."

Put yourself in the place of a co-worker, for example, who sees your lifestyle, your organized and peaceful manner in which you handle every day problems on the job. They want to know more about you so they befriend you. They find out that it is your faith that makes you what you are; your connection with Christ. They want to study the Bible. Then you decide you cannot do it and will send a total stranger to this person's

house. I am sure this co-worker, who has befriended you, would feel much more comfortable with a person they know and have befriended than a complete stranger. Often these Bible studies may not continue. God is asking **you** to give this Bible Study.

GROW IN GRACE

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;" Phil. 1:9

The truth is supposed to be a "pearl of great price" that must be searched daily and spread to others. Paul did not instruct the new believers to "maintain that faith that you already have." No, his instructions were always that they would, "grow in grace", that they may "abound more and more." If we feel we know enough and do not need to study more, we deceive ourselves. Our love to the Lord is shown in our desire to know more and more of His truth. Then our lives would slowly become changed to be more like Christ and we would not have to force our light to shine. It would be automatic. If you have found the key to eternal life you should not be careless with it. When people become careless, sleepy Christians they have stopped growing spiritually and that usually means that they have left off with Bible Study. Their faith is not being strengthened. They end up not only destroying their own lives but letting others around them perish. What will they answer when their friends ask them in the judgement, "Why didn't you tell me?" Will the answer be, "because you were not interested..." They respond with, "Well, you should have pleaded with me and begged me and made me to understand . . . now I will just have to perish with no hope and you could have saved me." It would be the same to be on a boat when someone falls over the side and you just watch them drown without trying to help them. So very cold and very cruel. Such people wouldn't have a chance of entering heaven.

People work so hard to do well at their secular job. They worry about being organised and efficient workers. What happens when the Lord calls them for work? Often when there is a call to some missionary endeavour in the church, they don't even show up for work. Do they really think they are going to get paid when they don't do anything? How can God reward their nothing?

MINISTERS DUTY

How do the church members learn to give Bible Studies? Is it only, "on-the-job" training? Do we depend solely on the Holy Spirit? We can if there is no other possibility, but often there is another way.

"The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others. Help all to see that as receivers of the grace of Christ they are under obligation to work for Him. And let all be taught how to work. Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be educated to become labourers together with God. If set to work, the despondent will soon forget their despondency; the weak will become strong, the ignorant intelligent, and all will be prepared to present the truth as it is in Jesus. They will find an unfailing helper in Him who has promised to save all that come unto Him." *Testimonies for the Church*. Vol.6, p. 49.

"Labourers are needed much more than mere preachers, but the two offices must be united. It has been proved in the missionary field that, whatever may be the preaching talent, if the labouring part is neglected, if the people are not taught how to work, how to conduct meetings, how to act their part in missionary labour, how to reach people successfully, the work will be nearly a failure." *Testimonies for the Church*. Vol. 5, p.256

"Pastors and teachers are to work intelligently in their lines, instructing church members how to work in medical missionary lines. When the professed followers of Christ have an indwelling Savior, they will be found doing as Christ did. They will have no opportunity to rust through inaction. They will have enough to do." *Welfare Ministry*, p. 123 "Ministers, teach the people how to work." *RH*, June 24, 1884.

It is truly a neglect on the part of the church leader/missionary leaders if they do not teach the church members how to work for the Lord. They need to be taught, how to canvass, how to give Bible Studies, how to meet various different religious organizations and answer their questions. They can do their canvassing and give their Bible studies themselves until they are exhausted but think, if they could encourage the members to go out and canvass and give Bible Studies also, the message would spread much more rapidly - like wildfire. "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" Ezekiel 34:2

Afternoon meetings should be conducted on these topics. How to give Bible Studies, How to Canvass, How to give answers to Mormons, a Watchtower person, or a Pentecostal etc. We also need afternoon meetings to reinforce our knowledge of the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation. One study before baptism is not enough. We are human, we forget.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. . ." Hosea 4:6 "Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge." Isaiah 5:13.

The saying goes, if you are not growing, you are dying. In the natural world we see that to be very true. All nature is either growing or dying. There is no such thing as a plant or animal remaining the same. So the same in our spiritual life and a very important part of our spiritual life is the knowledge of witnessing to others. The Spirit of Prophecy states that more church members will be lost through sins of omission rather than sins of commission.

God may overlook certain forms of ignorance as written in Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; . . ." but He cannot condone deliberate ignorance of spiritual things. Pharaoh is a good example of this. He had an opportunity to know of God and His ways but chose to harden his heart. People are judged not only by what they know, but also by the knowledge they might have had, if they had put forth the effort to obtain it. "Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth." John 9:41. "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. . . If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: . ." John 15:22, 24. Some fear that a further investigation of the truth may reveal further responsibilities and duties so they don't want to know more. "For this they willingly are ignorant. . ." 2 Peter 3:5. God will not excuse this type of willing ignorance.

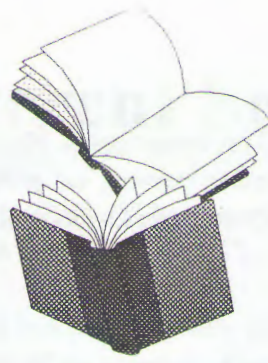
"A diligent, never-ending program of study to understand the will of God is the believers only road of character improvement." SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 572

The honest people of this earth are entitled to expect church members to present their convictions in an intelligent and convincing manner. Church members must be prepared to meet the challenge of the world's keenest minds. Truth is reasonable and should have nothing to fear.

We must understand the truth for ourselves so that we can share it with others. No one is excepted. As we study we will grow and become more Christ-like day by day. We will automatically reflect the image of Christ and it will become easier and easier to share the light. Our lives must reflect the character of Christ if our words will have any effect on our listeners. More often than not, outsiders will judge the church not on the truths the church teaches or on the sermons that the preachers preach but on the spontaneous witness of the church members in word as well as in deed.

While it is true that we do not all have the talent for preaching, or canvassing, but God has given us talents in some line of missionary work. Regardless of this, we must all be ready to give an answer for our faith. The story is told that Fidel Castro visited for awhile with a family that was Seventh-day Adventist. Years later he became the leader of his country, Cuba. At one point there was a Seventh-day Adventist man in his prison. He was brought before Castro expecting to be condemned for his faith, but to his surprise Castro simply brought out a chalk board and asked him to explain the 2,300 days to prove that he was really what he said he was. If he could do so, he would be a free man. Fortunately this man was a faithful Bible student and was able to do so. Therefore he was free.

It is my wish and prayer that we can say like King David, "I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed." Psalm 119:46 And that we can follow the counsel of the Apostle Paul, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6. Jesus said, "And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake. . ." Mat. 10:18. Will you be ready with an answer? AMEN By Wendy Eaton



The False and True in Education

ELLEN G. WHITE

In order to obtain an education many think it essential to study the writings of infidel authors, because these works contain many bright gems of thought. But who was the originator of these gems of thought? It was God and God only. He is the source of all light. Why then should we wade through the mass of error contained in the works of infidels for the sake of a few intellectual truths, when all truth is at our command?

How is it that men who are at war with the government of God come into possession of the wisdom which they sometimes display? Satan himself was educated in the heavenly courts, and he has a knowledge of good as well as of evil. He mingles the precious with the vile, and this is what gives him power to deceive. But because Satan has robed himself in garments of heavenly brightness, shall we receive him as an angel of light? The tempter has his agents, educated according to his methods, inspired by his spirit, and adapted to his work. Shall we co-operate with them? Shall we receive the works of his agents as essential to the acquirement of an education?...

HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL LORE

As a preparation for Christian work, many think it essential to acquire an extensive knowledge of historical and theological writings. They suppose that this knowledge will be an aid to them in teaching the gospel. But their laborious study of the opinions of men tends to the enfeebling of their ministry, rather than to its strengthening. As I see libraries filled with ponderous volumes of historical and theological lore, I think, Why spend money for that which is not bread?..

There is a study of history that is not to be condemned. Sacred history was one of the studies in the schools of the prophets. In the record of His dealings with the nations were traced the footsteps of Jehovah. So today we are to consider the dealings of God with the nations of the earth. We are to see in history the fulfillment of prophecy, to study the workings of Providence in the great reformatory movements, and to understand the progress of events in the marshaling of the nations for the final conflict of the great controversy.

Such study will give broad, comprehensive views of life. It will help us to understand something of its relations and dependencies, how wonderfully we are bound together in the great brotherhood of society and nations, and to how great an extent the oppression and degradation of one member means loss to all.

But history as commonly studied, is concerned with man's achievements, his victories in battle, his success in attaining power and greatness. God's agency in the affairs of men is lost sight of. Few study the workings out of His purpose in the rise and fall of nations.

And to a great degree, theology as studied and taught, is but a record of human speculation, serving only to "darken counsel by words without knowledge." Too often the motive in accumulating these many books is not so much a desire to present Christianity to the people in learned terms and propositions...

The words of the living God are the highest of all education. Those who minister to the people need to eat of the bread of life. This will give them spiritual strength; then they will be prepared to minister to all classes of people.

THE CLASSICS

In the colleges and universities thousands of youth devote a large part of the best years of life to the study of Greek and Latin. And while they are engaged in these studies, mind and character are molded by the evil sentiments of pagan literature, the reading of which is generally regarded as an essential part of the study of these languages.

Those who are conversant with the classics declare that "the Greek tragedies are full of incest, murder, and human sacrifices to lustful and revengeful gods." Far better would it be for the world were the education gained from such sources to be dispensed with. "Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" Prov. 6:28. "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one." Job 14:4. Can we then expect the youth to develop Christian character while their education is molded by the teaching of those who set at defiance the principles of the law of God?...

SENSATIONAL LITERATURE

Many of the popular publications of the day are filled with sensational stories that are educating the youth in wickedness and leading them in the path to perdition. Mere children in years are old in a knowledge of crime. They are incited to evil by the tales they read. In imagination they act over the deeds portrayed, until their ambition is aroused to see what they can do in committing crime and evading punishment....

Works of romance, frivolous, exciting tales, are, in hardly less degree, a curse to the reader. The author may profess to teach a moral lesson, throughout his work he may interweave religious sentiments; but often these serve only to veil the folly and worthlessness beneath...

There are works of fiction that were written for the purpose of teaching truth or exposing some great evil. Some of these works have accomplished good. Yet they have also wrought untold harm. They contain statements and pictures that excite the imagination and give rise to a train of thought which is full of danger, especially to the youth. The scenes described are lived over and over again in their thoughts. Such reading unfits the mind for usefulness and disqualifies it for spiritual exercise. It destroys interest in the Bible. Heavenly things find little place in the thoughts. As the mind dwells upon the scenes of impurity portrayed, passion is aroused, and the end is sin.

Even fiction which contains no suggestion of impurity, and which may be intended to teach excellent principles, is harmful. It encourages the habit of hasty and superficial reading merely for the story. Thus it tends to destroy the power of connected and vigorous thought; it unfits the soul to contemplate the great problems of duty and destiny. By fostering love for mere amusement, the reading of fiction creates a distaste for life's practical duties...

It is often urged that in order to win the youth from sensational or worthless literature, we should supply them with a better class of fiction. This is like trying to cure the drunkard by giving him, in the place of whisky or brandy, the milder intoxicants, such as wine, beer, or cider. The use of these would continually foster the appetite for stronger stimulants. The only safety for the inebriate, and the only safe-guard for the temperate man, is total abstinence. For the lover of fiction the same rule holds true. Total abstinence is his only safety.

MYTHS AND FAIRY TALES

In the education of children and youth, fairy tales, myths, and fictitious stories are now given a large place. Books of this character are used in schools, and they are to be found in many homes. How can Christian parents permit their children to use books so filled with falsehood? When the children ask the meaning of stories so contrary to the teaching of their parents, the answer is that the stories are not true; but this does not do away with the evil results of their use. The ideas presented in these books mislead the children. They impart false views of life and beget and foster a desire for the unreal.

The widespread use of such books at this time is one of the cunning devices of Satan. He is seeking to divert the minds of old and young from the great work of character building. He means that our children and youth shall be swept away by the soul-destroying deceptions with which he is filling the world. Therefore he seeks to divert their minds from the word of God and thus prevent them from obtaining a knowledge of those truths that would be their safeguard.

Never should books containing a perversion of truth be placed in the hands of children or youth. Let not our children in the very process of obtaining an education, receive ideas that will prove to be seeds of sin. If those with mature minds had nothing to do with such books, they would themselves be far safer, and their example and influence on the right side would make it far less difficult to guard the youth from temptation.

We have an abundance of that which is real, that which is divine. Those who thirst for knowledge need not go to polluted fountains...

Our Saviour did not encourage any to attend the rabbinical schools of His day, for the reason that their minds would be corrupted with the continually repeated, "They say," or, "It has been said." Why, then, should we accept the unstable words of men as exalted wisdom, when a greater, a certain, wisdom is at our command?...

Let us choose to be taught by Him who created the heavens and the earth, by Him who set the stars in their order in the firmament and appointed the sun and the moon to do their work.

It is right for the youth to feel that they must reach the highest development of their mental powers. We would not restrict the education to which God has set no limit. But our attainments avail nothing if not put to use for the honour of God and the good of humanity...

What we need is knowledge that will strengthen mind and soul, that will make us better men and women. Heart education is of far more importance than mere book learning. It is well, even essential to have a knowledge of the world in which we live; but if we leave eternity out of our reckoning, we shall make a failure from which we can never recover.

Ministry of Healing, pp.440-450.



*Youth leaders:
fr. left: Sis. Lindsay, Sis. Gowie,
Sis. Grant, Br. Escobar, Sis. Gordon*

Is the Holy Spirit a Person?

Many through the centuries have regarded the Holy Spirit as only a divine "active force", the power the Father uses to work out His will, but not a conscious, separate personality.

First, consider the gender the authors of the New Testament use to refer to the Spirit. Greek, like English, has masculine, feminine, and neuter forms of words (for example, *he, she, it*). But John in such passages as John 14:26 and 16:8, 13-15 employs the masculine form of the pronoun referring to the Spirit—*ekeinos* instead of the neuter *ekeino*. If the Holy Spirit were only a 'force' or 'influence', the apostle should have used the neuter gender.

Second, Scripture constantly mentions characteristics which fit only a conscious being. To cite a few examples, the Bible says that the Spirit—

1. Speaks (Revelation 2:7, Acts 13:2).
2. Makes intercession (Romans 8:26).
3. Calls, oversees, commands (Acts 16:6,7; 20:28).
4. May be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).
5. May be insulted, 'outraged' (Hebrews 10:29).
6. Can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
7. Can be blasphemed and sinned against (Matthew 12:31,32).
8. Teaches (John 14:26).
9. Glorifies Christ (John 16:14).
10. Counsels (John 14:16).

"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds." Evang. 616.

"The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God." Evang. 617.

"The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit." Evang. 617.

"There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith, are baptised." Evang. 615.

"He determined to give His representative, the Third Person of the Godhead." 6BC, 1053.

"Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fulness of divine power." DA 67.

WHO CONSTITUTES BABYLON?

Who are the churches that have become fallen and also “the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit”? First of all, no one can fall unless they are standing before. Therefore, Babylon in Revelation 18 signifies something that was a church of God and since then have fallen and become Babylon. The churches in 1844 who rejected the message of the Millerites became Babylon. Therefore, the second angel’s message condemned them. In Revelation 18, this message is repeated, therefore another church has fallen since then.

“If the professed followers of Christ would accept God’s standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His holy word, there will be divisions and dissension. The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term, ‘Babylon’, which prophesy applies to the world-loving churches of the last days.” PP, 124.

“I have seen that in the assembly of the saints a holy stillness should reign. But, the house where God’s people assemble is often made a perfect Babylon, a place of confusion and disorder. This is displeasing to God.” 2: Spiritual Gifts, 289.

“The churches represented by Babylon are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” TM, 117.

“Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.” GC, 607.

“August 31, 1861, I was shown that some have feared that our churches would become Babylon if they should organize; but those in central New York have been perfect Babylon, confusion.” Test.Vol. 1, 270.

“The term ‘Babylon’ is derived from ‘Babel’ and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion.” GC, 381.

“The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt... and the term ‘Babylon’--confusion--may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories.” GC, 383.

“The churches became Babylon when they refused the light of the Advent message, the special truths for that time.” GC, 389. (Matthew 10:14-15).

The churches rejected the message preached by Millerites in 1844, and this rejection made them a Babylon. Even that their message had an error in it, yet it was the message of God. Seventh-Day Adventists have rejected the Christ’s Righteousness message, the 10 Commandments by joining the army and given up on the health message. By so doing they also became part of the great Babylon and the honest souls must be called to come out of it.

“There is but one church in the world, who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places, and for any man to call the attention of the world and other churches to this church, denouncing her as Babylon, is to do a work in harmony with him who is the accuser of brethren. It is possible that men will arise from among us, who speak perverse things, and give voice to the very sentiments that Satan would have

disseminated in the world in regard to those who keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus." TM, 50.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church was not Babylon until they turned away from the Commandments of God and joined the army and participated in the war. They also lost the faith of Jesus by rejecting the Christ Righteousness message.

Outside the church of God other churches and groups constitute Babylon. They cannot become one with the remnant church of God because of the differences in their beliefs. Our work today is to call people out of these churches that they would "be not partakers of their sins and that they receive not of her plagues."

AMEN.



*fr. left: Br. Bennett and Johnson
from Montego Bay*

WHAT IS TRUE HEALTH REFORM?

"When the people of Israel, their king, nobles, and priests were carried into captivity, four of their number were selected to serve in the court of the king of Babylon. One of these was Daniel, who early gave promise of the remarkable ability developed in later years. These youth were all of princely birth, and are described as "children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them" (Dan. 1:4). Perceiving the superior talents of these youthful captives, King Nebuchadnezzar determined to prepare them to fill important positions in his kingdom. That they might be fully qualified for their life at court, according to Oriental custom, they were to be taught the language of the Chaldeans, and to be subjected for three years to a thorough course of physical and intellectual discipline.

"The youth in this school of training were not only to be admitted to the royal palace, but it was provided that they should eat of the meat and drink of the wine which came from the king's table. In all this the king considered that he was not only bestowing great honour upon them, but securing for them the best physical and mental development that could be attained.

"Among the viands placed before the king were swine's flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been expressly forbidden to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, and probably lose not only his position but his life? or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favour of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects?

"Daniel did not long hesitate. He decided to stand firm in his integrity, let the result be what it might. He "purposed in his heart that he should not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." (Dan. 1:8)

"There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking as of too little consequence to require such a decided stand - one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgement that they turned from God's express requirements and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard of right and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. "Thus saith the Lord" is to be our rule in all things." *The Sanctified Life*, pp. 18-20

MODERN DAY HEALTH REFORMERS

In our church today there are two distinct groups of health reformers. I will simply call them Group 1 and Group 2 Health Reformers and you can decide for yourself which group you fit into.

Group 1: These health reformers are vegetarians and observe various health principles (ie. abstaining from meat, tea and coffee etc.) because it is a requirement for baptism. While they do acknowledge that these items of food are harmful and willingly abstain from them, they never progress past the "rules" set out by the church in the matter of health. When presented with an item of food that is not so healthy (I don't need to make a list of these... most of you readers know the long list of questionable foods ie. Chocolate doughnuts etc.) these people, while contemplating the matter in their minds, use reasoning that, "Well the church never said it was wrong so I can eat it." And they proceed to eat it with relish.

Over 10 years ago, I spoke with a church member regarding health reform who told me that they loved their cheese and needed to eat some every day and will continue to eat cheese until the General Conference says that it is wrong to eat cheese, then they will give it up. Unfortunately for this person that time may never come and yet today cheese is not among the best foods for a health reformer to eat. If this person knew there was some sort of problem with cheese, then it was a sin for them to eat it. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17

Group 2: These people accept the health message of the church with joy because they see and understand clearly the connection between the food they eat and the effect it has on their mind and body. These people would be vegetarians regardless of what the church teaches. While they accept and appreciate the church's stand on the health reform message they do not stop at the "rules" that the church has laid out. Actually they are really just guidelines. These people observe these guidelines but use them as a spring board into a deeper study of health reform. They see their duty before God in not violating their body, the "temple of the Holy Spirit," and seek to do as much as possible to maintain good health.

The Group 1 people do the bare minimum and seek to indulge in those things that the church has not made a "rule" for but have questionable effects on their health. The Group 2 folks seek a higher plane and are constantly reaching higher towards God's ideal. They realize that to have a clear mind we must have optimum health. What time in the history of this world was it more urgent to have a clear mind than at the present and in the near future when all the hosts of darkness will be hurled against God's people? We must prepare our minds and bodies today.

There are many harmful substances that are put into foods these days. There are chemicals, preservatives, additives, and an over-abundance of sugar in so many foods (most canned products, - fruit, beans, tomato sauce... salad dressings etc.) to try to improve the flavour and preserve the quality. But yet the church cannot make the 100 or so rules to bring these Group 1 health reformers into a state of optimum health. The only way they will ever reach this standard is if the church *did* make all these rules. Whereas the Group 2 people will be following Sr. White's counsel regarding health where she wrote that we are to "read the best authors on these subjects, and obey religiously that which your reason tells you is truth." *Counsels on Health*, p. 566 She knew that what was revealed to her was not enough. Food would become more tainted as time went on and some foods would become more unhealthy. So what the bottom line is on these two groups is that the Group 1 people are following man. They are only following the guidelines of the church that man has set in place while the Group 2 people are following the Holy Spirit and will follow the strict health laws to the honour and glory of God. They realize that the church guidelines are just the beginning of the journey and not the end and they are willing to study to know more.

CHURCH GUIDELINES

The guidelines of the church are very good and I believe inspired by God to bring people out of the world and into a better knowledge of the truths for this time. It is perfectly appropriate for those who are beginning their journey. But, for someone who has been in the church for over 10 years to still be at the basics is someone who is not following the Holy Spirit. As a newly baptised person accepts the basic health principles they are receiving the "milk" of the word but they must go on to find the "meat". We can compare this to the person who enters the church and decides that he knows all he needs to know about the Bible (or strong food) and discontinues studying. We would frown upon his reasoning. In the same manner we must wonder about those who are not progressing on the health reform road.

The church guidelines are made simple for those new in the faith. Simply abstaining from flesh foods, Caffeine products - tea and coffee, Alcohol, and Tobacco. This is good enough to be baptized and perfectly fine for a new convert.

But as a person is a member for years and they study they will see things like, "Chocolate has caffeine". But the church, while admitting that it is best to abstain from it, does not openly condemn it. What will we do next? The decision is ours. The Holy Spirit brings the light but we have to choose the way we will go. Then as they read the Spirit of Prophecy they come across a statement in which Sister White condemns pastries whose main ingredients are milk, sugar and eggs. "Especially harmful are the custards and puddings in which milk, eggs, and sugar are the chief ingredients. The free use of milk and sugar taken together should be avoided." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 301 "And from the light given me, sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat." *Test. Vol. 2* p. 370 (We have to consider that meat was not as unhealthy in her day as in ours so this comparison might not be exactly accurate but still she condemned meat eating in her day as unhealthy and these pastries are equally unhealthy). Yet, the church makes no rules for these types of desserts. What should a person do? Continue enjoying these pastries because the General Conference has made no rule to that effect? Again the choice is yours. The list can go on and on. The Holy Spirit has much more to reveal to us if we are willing.

GOD'S IDEAL DIET

In the book of Genesis we see God's ideal diet laid out. It includes nuts, grains, seeds, fruits and vegetables. Can we live a healthy diet today if we follow this ideal? Will we enjoy our food? Will it be palatable. Yes, it certainly will if you take the time and effort to learn how to cook this way.

When I was first married I knew that my husband did not want me to cook with dairy products. All my life I had cooked with them. I thought it would be easy to learn. The first Friday he asked me to prepare Sabbath lunch for a few visitors that would come. I looked in his cupboards and there wasn't much. I decided to make tomato soup (a simple can of V/8 juice), some patties and salad. The soup was easy but the patties were a nightmare. I used oatmeal and the herbs that I found in the cupboards. I tried to form them this way, and then that way, and became completely frustrated. They would not stick together where I wanted them to and then they would stick where they were not supposed to. I threw my arms up in despair and said, "Jerry, you simply cannot make patties without eggs." Well, he managed to complete the project and the Sabbath lunch went well. Over the next few years I found the food most unpalatable and started to lose a bit too much weight. Then one day Jerry came home with a big bucket of Tofu. Two dozen to be exact. What on earth was I to do with two dozen tofu cakes? Scrambled tofu was a mainstay for a few weeks. I got tired of it after awhile and decided to do some research on cooking. Surely there must be some good vegetarian cookbooks out there. Most of the ones I had seen included dairy products and various other harmful substances. It was difficult to find good ones but the search was not fruitless. I did find some over the years and this research has led me to put together the vegetarian cookbook that is printed by the publishers of *The Messenger*. "Vegetarian Cooking - A World of Difference." This cookbook was instigated by Br. Larry Watts and much help was received from donations of recipes from believers in the church around the world. I did not want people to have to go through the trouble that I went through, and today my family eats almost exclusively from the recipes in this book. Hopefully someone can learn from the knowledge that I have found and build on that.

Sister White has actually said that when you give up meat you will suffer (what we call today) withdrawal symptoms. You will feel weak and tired and think that you need the meat in order to maintain your strength. Many go back to the meat because they felt that in giving it up they became weak. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is your body's reaction to the sudden lack of stimulating foods. It will be the same with any other stimulating foods that you give up. Just try, for example, to give up chocolate and see if you don't start to crave it desperately in a few days. This will show you if you have a true addiction. It is not easy to give up stimulating foods but you must never say, "I CAN'T!" or then you are doubting God because He says, "Yes, but with My help you can." Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

Many times I have heard it said that it is harder to cook a pure vegetarian meal than it is meat because you have to worry about combining the different foods to get all the nutrients that you need. You almost have to be a chemist. Meat and dairy have complete proteins, they are so easy to cook. I have also heard it said that there are no pure vegetable sources of vitamin B12. But I ask you, Did God make a mistake? Did He forget to put B12 in the diet when He gave His guidelines to Adam and Eve? Did Adam and Eve have a difficult time worrying about nutrients and were they deficient in B12? His 930 years of life surely don't indicate that he was. There are certainly vegetable sources of B12 and cooking the way God intended can become second nature to those who make the effort.

Going back to the Group 1 and Group 2 health reformers, another noticeable difference is in their shopping habits. The Group 1 people are careless. When they need a can of beans they grab the first one they see, and that goes with all the other items, such as canned tomatoes, salad dressings, canned fruit etc. There is not the concern of MSG, sugar, black pepper, vinegar, baking soda and other harmful spices and preservatives. It is vegetarian so it is ok. The Group 2 people are seen carefully reading the labels to see if there are any of these harmful ingredients and they will only purchase those that prove to be healthful. If they can't find one that is healthy they just won't buy that product. They will go home and, either do without, or make something from scratch (beans, salad dressings etc.). The church has never said it is wrong to eat black pepper; it is wrong to eat vinegar, and so on. Since the church has never made a ruling on these issues those in Group 1 don't give these things a second thought. They don't see them as important enough to make an issue of them, or especially, to avoid them. Will the church ever make this ruling? No, probably not, and the church shouldn't have to because those that are following the Spirit will be led to study these things and will decide to eliminate them from their diet.

No one has a right to condemn another who is not as far along on the health reform road as they are. We follow the guidelines as we enter the church and become a part of the family of God and then we are encouraged to embark on our venture to perfect health. As we study, though and discover new light it is our duty to share it with our brothers and sisters.

Just as we must see growth in our spiritual walk we must see growth in our walk toward optimum health. The two go hand in hand. In comparing our lives to years back we must see a progression. The health message that we have today is sufficient for those who are led by the Spirit because it is just the springboard that they need to attain to the higher level. The health message has been heralded with joy by many who have been unhealthy and seeking to find the answers from the broken cisterns of this world. It brings so much joy, health and happiness.

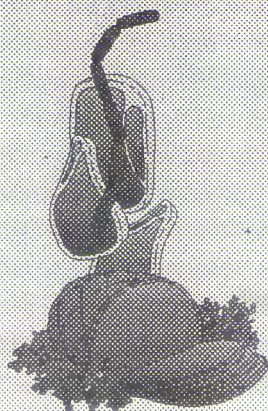
So it is my wish and prayer that we would each search our hearts to see what kind of health reformers we are. Are we from the Group 1 who will follow only the rules set out by the church? This is the middle step and they will stop there. Or will we be from the Group 2 who are led by the Holy Spirit to a higher plane?--those who will leap up to the final step. I hope that by the grace of God we can all say that we belong to Group 2 and we belong to the Lord.

AMEN

Health talk given at the Canadian Field Conference. August 31, 1997

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Eating Flesh Foods



Counsels on Diet and Foods p. 383 "Those who use flesh meat disregard all the warnings that God has given concerning this question. They have no evidence that they are walking in safe paths. They have not the slightest excuse for eating the flesh of dead animals."

Counsels on Diet and Foods p. 382 "There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people to walk no more with them."

Counsels on Diet and Foods p. 388 "The meat diet is the serious question. Shall human beings live on the flesh of dead animals? The answer, from the light that God has given is, No, decidedly, No."

"Elmshaven" Sanitarium, Napa Co., Cal. Nov. 3, 1901 H. 159 "Many by a course of self-indulgence have put Christ to open shame. They have encouraged an appetite for meat-eating and for other harmful articles of diet, failing to honour God by revealing the purifying, sanctifying influence of the truth."

Bible Training School, May 1907 "At this stage of the earth's history meat eating is dishonouring to God. It is meat eating and liquor drinking that are making the world as it was in the days of Noah."



The believers at the baptismal site

Current Scene

"Pope makes peace with evolution"

From the *Globe and Mail*, October 25, 1996: "The Pope has lent his support to the theory of evolution, proclaiming it compatible with Christian faith in a step welcomed by scientists but likely to raise strong protests from the religious right.

"It is indeed remarkable that this theory has progressively taken root in the minds of researchers following a series of discoveries made in different spheres of knowledge. The convergence, neither sought nor provoked, of results of studies undertaken independently from each other constitutes in itself a significant argument in favour of this theory", the Pope said.

It seems that the Pope is doing everything he can to unite all the world-one religion with another, one group with another (like scientists and religionists) and even one country with another. Is it any wonder that they are calling him the "prince of peace"? Of course, the word anti-christ originally meant, "in the place of" Christ and he is literally in the place of Christ today in many people's minds. Unfortunately, he is only a political counterfeit, and a very dangerous one at that. (Witness how the predominantly Catholic nation of Rwanda massacred one another in their civil war a couple of years ago. And even though the Pope condemned their actions, his doctrine or influence wasn't enough to make a change in their characters, because they were not founded upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.) Now he is getting the scientists and influential ones of this earth to look upon the Catholic religion as intellectual and acceptable-but again he has left the Bible and the Bible's Author far behind. Why has he ignored all the increasing evidence for creation; for example, human beings existing side-by-side with dinosaurs and having great technology before the flood as documented in "Secrets of the Lost Races" and other books? Why is he ignoring the Biblical basis of creation? Perhaps because he is styling himself a god, and thus sitting in judgment of the Bible. Of course, the word of God will judge and condemn all of those who have rejected it and it's Author.

"What's Next? Promise Keepers wonder"

(From the *Rocky Mountain News*, Oct. 6, 1997)

"Washington- When all the prayers and redemptions were done, Colorado Promise Keepers caught their breath Sunday and reflected on how the weekend with a million other men will change the nation and themselves.

"They had just completed one of the largest religious rallies in U.S. history.

"I didn't expect to put the earth to shaking," said Jim Walters, pastor of the Bear Valley Church. "But my own hope is that five years from now, we'll look back and say that was the day it all started.

"I was thinking back on a Martin Luther King march in the 1960s when about 200,000 people came here," said Walters, who helped organize a Rainbow Coalition of men from surrounding churches to attend the event. "They couldn't have known at the time that that march would do so much for desegregation."

"Every guy here has God's spirit in him," Promise Keeper Founder, Bill McCartney cried out to the crowd. "That's what got us together. We're on the same team. And we'll spend all of eternity together."

"He also wants to take his ministry worldwide. But he said his movement has already started doing research and is bringing in people from around the world to "teach us how to be culturally sensitive so that we can communicate effectively and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ."

As we look at the doctrines and sometimes hidden political agenda of Promise Keepers and their sister organization, Focus on the Family, we can't help but ask the question, "What spirit is leading them?" They both have expressed support for, and complicity with, the Pope of Rome. They both have signed *ECT-Evangelicals and Catholics together, bringing Christianity into the 21st century*, a 1994 agreement pledging mutual support between Protestants and Catholics. A few Christians have "blown the whistle" on this document, for it undoes all that the Protestant Reformation did almost 500 years ago in yielding the protestant's rights' to evangelize catholics, the Bible as supreme authority and salvation through Christ's Atonement rather than the "sacraments". Well should we also wonder, "What's next?" because when the Pope supplies the pressure, we can be sure that the Sunday laws will come.

We're reminded of this familiar passage in *The Great Controversy*: "But there is no union between the Prince of light and prince of darkness, and there can be no union between their followers. When Christians consented to unite with those who were but half converted from paganism, they entered upon a path which led

farther and farther from the truth. Satan exulted that he had succeeded in deceiving so large a number of the followers of Christ. He then brought his power to bear more fully upon these, and inspired them to persecute those who remained true to God. None understood so well how to oppose the true Christian faith as did those who had once been its defenders; and these apostate Christians, uniting with their half-pagan companions, directed their warfare against the most essential features of the doctrines of Christ.

"It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations which were disguised in sacerdotal garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and proscribed.

"After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by compromise of truth and righteousness then let there be difference, and even war.

"Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God's professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance. This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan, so that false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful in ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ."

In these political ways of unifying christianity under one head, we can readily see the way that the mark of the beast is going to come. All of the Protestants are playing right into the Pope's hands when they water down the truths of the Bible. May God help His people to be faithful to Jesus, the way, *the truth* and the life. It is only the "purity of the truth that has power to uplift and save". Only as we square our lives with God's righteous principles will we have the courage to live for and stand for the right.

Millennium Fever?

As the countdown to the new millennium rolls inexorably along, the hype grows. Every issue of *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report* has a column on the subject, and *Time* devoted an entire magazine to it. It seems the whole world is watching to see what will happen at the turn of the millennium. According to a recent *Associated Press* poll, nearly one out of every four Christian adults—an estimated 26.5 million people - expect Jesus to arrive in their lifetimes. Nearly as many—an estimated 21.1 million Americans—are so sure of it that they feel an urgent need to convert friends and neighbours. The results are consistent with other surveys about the Second Coming. But the AP Poll, conducted last spring probes how Christians are acting on their beliefs. The year 2000 is far enough away to be plausible as Christ's Second Coming, yet close enough to spark intense proselytizing.

But it only seems that the whole world is interested. Actually, says historian Peter Stearns, "one-third of the world will care significantly, one-third will notice it, and one-third will barely be aware of it." For 1.2 billion Chinese, one-fifth of the world's population, our 1997 is the year 4695. For Jews, it's the year 5758. For one billion Muslims, it's the year 1418. And Hindus—another 780 million people—believe we're in the middle of a calendrical cycle that will end in the world's destruction. But as far as they're concerned, the cycle has another 350,000 years to go.

So, for most of the world, our A.D. 2000 is no big deal—which just underlines the church's obligation to "go, teach and baptize all nations" so that the world may know how prophecy has fulfilled and how close we are to Christ's Second Coming. True, no man knows the day or the hour, but we are to "lift up our heads, for our redemption draweth nigh."



CHILDREN'S CORNER

NELLIE ALTON'S MOTHER

"Mamma, O mamma!" cried an eager young voice; and Nellie Alton, a plump, rosy school-girl of twelve, rushed into her mother's room, and, flinging her text-books on the sofa, seated herself on a stool at her mother's feet. Mrs. Alton looked up from her sewing with a quiet smile, and said, as she pushed back the tangled curls from Nellie's uplifted forehead -

"What is the matter with my daughter? Has anything serious happened at school?"

"O mamma," said Nellie, half reproachfully, "you haven't forgotten that a week ago I received that invitation to Minnie Shelbourne's party have you? You said then, that you didn't know whether I should accept the invitation, and I think I've been very patient not to bother you about it. Almost all the girls are going. Mrs. Doane has bought the loveliest silk dresses for Carrie and Jessie. Mrs. Hilton has three women sewing on Emma's dress and here I am not knowing whether you will allow me to go. Cousin Sue said she thought my mother a woman who takes a lot of time to reflect before making a decision."

"In years to come you will rejoice over the truth of Sue's remark, my darling."

"I have decided, my dear. Last night your father and I had a long talk about the matter, and we agreed..."

"To let me go?" cried eager Nellie.

"No, dear. We are sorry that we will have to disappoint you but, for your own good, we cannot allow you to participate in this harmful pleasure." Nellie bit her lip, while her eyes filled with tears.

"May I ask your reasons, mamma?"

"Yes, dear; and I feel that my sensible little daughter will be satisfied with them. All the advantages you are now having, that we have provided for you, are for the purpose of making you, at some future time, a useful woman in society. To receive the greatest benefit, your mind must not be distracted from your studies, and you must be kept free from everything that will ruin your health and strength. Parties will excite you, deprive you of sleep, fill your mind with foolish fancy thoughts. You will not be able to do the best in your school work, and you will become thin, pale, and irritable. We would sadly miss our bright, blooming Nellie. Do you now see why we refuse to let you attend the party?"

"But just once cannot hurt me," pleaded Nellie.

"The one party, my child, will be followed by many more of them. If you go to Miss Shelburne's the other girls will wonder why you cannot attend theirs, and you will end up hurting their feelings. We will talk no more about it now. Some day you will thank me for my decision. Are you satisfied?"

"I'll try to be, mamma," said Nellie; but in her heart she was not sure.

The night of the party arrived. Nellie had had a very trying week at school, because the other girls were talking about nothing else besides their fine preparations for the party. She bore it bravely, and after dinner sat down quietly to her homework, which was unusually difficult. At 8:30 she closed her books with the air of a conqueror, and went to talk with her mother, -

"Now, mamma, it's all done, all of it. May I run over and see Cousin Sue getting ready to go to the party?"

Mother agreed and soon Nellie was off. She entered her uncle's house just as Sue was coming down the stairs, in a cloud of lace and pink silk. She felt a little choking in her throat and a tear in her eye, but said, quietly, "Sue, you look lovely; but tomorrow's French exercise is terribly hard."

"And Miss Propriety Stay-at-home has prepared for it, I suppose. Aren't you sorry you can't go?" sneered Sue, straightening out her dress with a satisfied air.

"Mother knows best," said Nellie, decidedly; then she went home. While her sixth hour of sleep, sweet and restful, was passing by, poor, tired, cross Sue returned home, and wearily climbed the stairs to her room.

Next day Nellie came home from school, full of excitement, saying, "I am at the head of all my classes. Some of the girls were late, others had headaches, all of them were disagreeable, and none of them had half prepared their lessons. Professor Marshly was very angry, but he thanked me for my good example to others. You dearest mother, I'll trust you as long as I live." And grateful Nellie sealed her promise with a kiss.

Years afterward, two ladies were seated in a living room of a lovely, humble home, engaged in conversation. One of them reclined on a sofa, and her pale features and restless, dissatisfied manner showed that she was not very healthy. In fact she looked like an invalid. The face of the other was bright with health and energy. Her sunny smile and cherry voice showed that she had hardly ever been sick or in pain.

"Nellie, my dear," sighed the first lady, "you can have no idea of the dreadful condition of my nervous system. I spend most of the day on the sofa. The children are such a disturbance, everything about the house goes wrong and even Ralph (her husband) looks so discontented. I cannot enjoy the company of people at all anymore. In fact, the doctor says I had too much excitement when young and ruined my constitution with the parties and late suppers. I would give my fortune for your good health and cheerful spirits."

"Cousin Sue, I remember when you used to drive off to parties, and think scornfully of my quiet home evenings."

"I remember, Nellie. Do hand me another cushion, and please lower the shade a little, the light makes my headache worse. There, thank you. Now will you tell me what you owe your healthy, happy life to?"

At this moment the door opened, and a silver-haired sweet-faced lady entered. Nellie rose to meet her, wrapping one arm about the lady's waist. "Cousin Sue," she said, "my perfect health, my calm, happy mind, the good I am enabled to do for God and humanity, the comfort I succeed in giving to my husband and children, the knowledge I have of my heavenly Father, and the love I have for Him, I owe to the judicious care, the wise counsel, and the tender love and prayers of my mother."

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The miracles he witnessed will help you understand why his life belonged to God and why he tirelessly served his precious Redeemer all the days of his life.

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Elder Oscar Kramer's book of poems is also available at a suggested donation of \$5.00

Baptism in Streetsville

The church in Streetsville witnessed the baptism of our dear Brother Wilfred Doyle on November 8th. Brother Wilfred has studied the Bible with Brother Timo Martin for the past two years and with great joy the members of the Streetsville church welcomed him into fellowship. Brother Kanagarajah conducted the service.

May God richly bless Brother Wilfred and his wife Marlene.

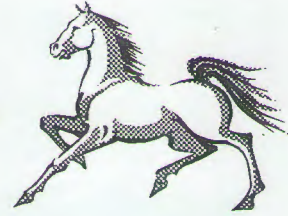
AMEN.



Brother Wilfred Doyle welcomed into
the church

Horses in Prophecy

When Jesus began to open the seals and unroll the scroll, it was just as if he had switched on a television set. One picture after another passed before John's eyes, each one a symbol of some event to happen in the future.



The first symbol he saw was a white horse and its rider. This was a symbol of the Church of God. The white colour indicated its purity and the first love among them, as it went conquering and to conquer through all the Roman Empire.

As the second seal was opened, another horse was seen, red in colour. And its rider was given a great sword with which he took the "peace from the earth".

As the third seal was opened, he saw a black horse and its rider, who was holding a balance in his hand.

The fourth scene showed a horse of a greyish colour, and its rider's name was "Death". They were given the power to kill with the sword and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

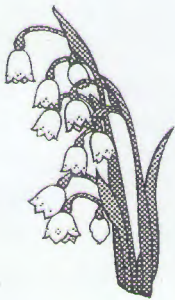
As we are looking back across the years, we can see the fulfilment of the four horses in history.

By Emelina Garcia, 11 years old

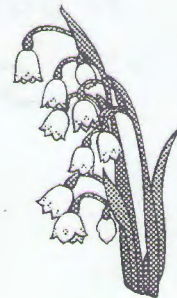


The Little Things

*Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.*



*Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Make our earth an Eden
Like the heaven above.*



Submitted by: little Rebekah Cabral

The Family

*The family is like a book,
The children are the leaves,
The parents are the cover that
Protective beauty gives.*

*At first the pages of the book
Are blank, and smooth, and fair;
But time soon writeth memories,
And painteth pictures there.*

*Love is the little golden clasp
That bindeth up the trust;
O break it not, lest all the leaves
Shall scatter and be lost.*